

KCC 4772 (K-C 16,738)  
PATENTRemarks

Claims 53-54 are amended herein. Entry of the amendments and consideration of these remarks after final is appropriate under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because they raise no new issues, and place the application in form for allowance. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 36-54 will be pending in the application. Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 37-52.

Applicants note that the Office action failed to indicate the status of claim 36. Since claim 36 depends from allowed claim 37, applicants submit that claim 36 is also allowable.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendments. Support for the amendment to claim 53 can be found on page 27, lines 23-25 of the specification. These lines state "[t]he nonwoven facing can be gathered or ungathered when bonded to the other substrate...". Emphasis added. Accordingly, the specification clearly supports the amendment to claim 53 reciting that the non-woven loop material is substantially ungathered on the substrate.

Support for the amendment to claim 54 can be found on page 26, lines 14-23. The lines state:

Thermal bonding of a nonwoven may be accomplished by passing the nonwoven fabric between the rolls of a calendaring machine. At least one of the rollers of the calendar is heated and at least one of the rollers, not necessarily the same one as the heated one, has a pattern which is imprinted upon the nonwoven fabric as it passes between the rollers. As the fabric passes between the rollers it is subjected to pressure as well as heat. The combination of heat and pressure applied in a particular pattern results in the creation of fused bond areas in the nonwoven fabric where the bonds on the fabric correspond to the pattern of bond points on the calendar roll. Emphasis added.

Accordingly, the specification also clearly supports the amendment to claim 54. As explained in the specification, the patterned calendar roll applies heat and pressure to the nonwoven

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fabric to fuse bond areas of the nonwoven fabric corresponding to the pattern on the calendar roll. The plain meaning of this description is that the fused bonded areas of the nonwoven fabric are compressed by the patterned calendar roll while the areas not bonded by the calendar roll (i.e., the areas of the nonwoven fabric corresponding to the portion of calendar roll between the patterned portion) are not compressed.

#### Response to Rejection of Claims 53 and 54

Amended claims 53 and 54 do not inject new matter, and do clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Claim 53 has been amended herein to remove the term "non-creped" and thereby obviate the rejection of claim 53.

With regard to claim 54, the Office indicated at page 2 of the Office action that one of ordinary skill in the art would not readily understand that the bond points formed by application of heat and pressure correspond to compressed areas. Accordingly, claim 54 has been amended herein to clarify that the bond points on the non-woven loop material are formed by discrete compression points and thereby overcome the Office's rejection.

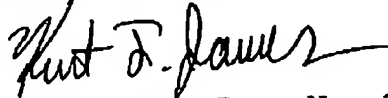
As a result, amended claims 53 and 54 satisfy the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 36-54 is respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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